

1964 DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED SCIENCE



Former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller (shown above with Edward Teller, Director Roger Batzel, and a student) visited the Laboratory in 1977 to dedicate the new building (right) for the University of California at Davis Department of Applied Science.



Serving with the University of California

In the early 1960s, Edward Teller championed the need for a graduate program in applied science. He wanted to see a university-level educational facility established at Livermore. Teller held numerous meetings with University of California (UC) administrators at Berkeley and Davis before finally negotiating an agreement to create the UC Davis Department of Applied Science. That department, which was part of UC Davis's new College of Engineering, has often been referred to as "Teller Tech."

With a trailer for administrative offices and two rooms in an old barracks building for classrooms, the UC Davis Department of Applied Science was officially dedicated on January 16, 1964. In 1977, a permanent building for the department was dedicated just outside the Laboratory's gates, with no less than former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller on hand for the ceremonies.

Teller served as the department's first administrator, and his staff included one full-time employee as well as a half-time vice chairman. The Department of Applied Science opened with 81 students—12 full-time students and 69 Laboratory employees working to finish their advanced degrees. Since its inception, the department has awarded 370 Ph.D.s with about 50 percent of its graduates taking their first job at the Laboratory.

Today, the Department of Applied Science has 24 faculty members and 90 graduate students, all of whom are full-time students. Graduate students in the department specialize in virtually all combinations of traditional fields, with an emphasis on laser physics and technology, plasma diagnostics, fusion energy, accelerator technology, biotechnology, computational sciences, and graphics visualization. They are accepted into Laboratory research programs, offering the students unparalleled access to cutting-edge research equipment and facilities.

In tribute to Teller's unflagging commitment to science education and to the guidance he provided to generations of scientists, the Fanny and John Hertz

Foundation gave \$1 million to the University of California in 1999 to endow a chair in Teller's name in the Department of Applied Science. More recently, the Department of Applied Science and the Laboratory—in collaboration with the University of California Office of the President, UC Davis, and UC Merced—established the Edward Teller Education Center to foster excellence in teacher training in science and math.

In addition to the Department of Applied Science, the Laboratory has many other academic ties to UC campuses. These ties, which are overseen by the University Relations Program, are important for recruiting and retaining an exceptional scientific staff. For example, the University Relations Program runs five Laboratory research institutes, which improve access to Livermore's unique facilities, contribute to science education, strengthen Laboratory programs, and enhance Laboratory researchers' ties to the academic community.

University of California at Merced

The University of California (UC) will soon break ground on its first new campus since 1965—and it will be in the Laboratory's backyard. UC Merced, which will be the nation's first research university to be built in the 21st century, is scheduled to open in 2004.

The Laboratory has worked closely with the University of California for well over a year to outline possible partnerships and collaborations, from access for faculty to Laboratory facilities to joint appointments and programs. Livermore representatives have helped recruit UC Merced's first two deans for its Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and its Division of Engineering, Computer Sciences, and Information Sciences.